

PARISH OF MAYBOLE.

PRESBYTERY OF AYR, SYNOD OF GLASGOW AND AYR.

THE REV. GEORGE GRAY, MINISTER.

I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

Name.—THE derivation of the name of the town and parish of Maybole, in the former Statistical Account, from Maypole, must be regarded as purely fanciful. Chalmers, in his *Caledonia*, says, that the earliest notice of the name is in a charter of Henry III., in Hearne's *Liber Niger*, viz. "in 1192, Duncan, the son of Gilbert di Galiveia, gave to God and St Mary, of Maelros a certain piece of land in Carric, named Maybothel." And he suggests in consequence an Anglo-Saxon derivation, from the common "*bottle*" or "*bothel*" signifying a house, farm, or village, and "*May*," which may either be considered the name of a person, or a derivative from the word signifying a kinsman. And in support of this interpretation, "the dwelling of the kinsman," it may be alleged that several names and usages of this district are undoubtedly Saxon, and to be traced to the period of the Heptarchy, when Galloway and the southern parts of Ayrshire were overrun by the Northumbrians. At the same time, it must be remembered, that the Scots from Ireland and Argyle took possession of the country so early as the ninth century; that the Gaelic language was very generally spoken throughout the whole country along the Frith of Clyde, even in the time of Buchanan; that the names of the district of Carrick, of which Maybole is the principal town, and of many of the neighbouring farms, hills, and streams, are Gaelic; and that all these circumstances would naturally lead us to trace the name of Maybole to a similar origin. There is, however, considerable difficulty in assigning it to its proper Celtic roots, from the different ways in which the name is written, even in very ancient records. Sometimes it is found Maiboil, and at other times Minnybole, with numerous variations in the orthography of each; and as either may be adopted, will signify the heath ground upon the marsh or meadow,

both of which names are so far descriptive of the situation of the town, which stands upon a declivity,—no doubt at one time covered with heath, and at the bottom of which there is a tract of meadow land which must at one time also have been a marsh.

Extent, Boundaries, &c.—The parish contains about 34 square miles; its greatest length as the crow flies being 9, and its greatest breadth 5 miles.* It is bounded on the north, and so far on the east by the river Doon, which divides it from the parishes of Ayr and Dalrymple; on the east and south by Kirkmichael, and the water of Girvan; and on the west by Kirkoswald and the Frith of Clyde. It is somewhat of an oblong figure, and towards the north-east is traversed by a tract of high land, called Brown Carrick Hill, which rises over the sea and the river Doon. This hilly range is covered with heath, and rises to the height of about 1000 feet above the level of the sea, and nothing can exceed the beauty and grandeur of the views commanded by its summits. Looking towards the north, the fertile fields of Kyle—the town of Ayr with its spires and shipping, surrounded by villas and mansion-houses—the classic and richly wooded banks of the Ayr and Doon—Kirk Alloway—the humble place of its poet's birth, and the splendid monument to his memory—lie immediately beneath; while the waters of the frith, studded with sails and bounded with the magnificent frame-work of Goatfell and the mountains of the western Highlands, terminate the splendid prospect. Looking again towards the south, the district of Carrick, with its undulating fields, wooded valleys, and green hills, stretches away to the horizon in humbler but not less pleasing perspective.

Climate.—The climate does not differ materially from that which prevails over the west coast of Scotland. Upon the whole, it must be considered conducive to good health. Remarkable instances of longevity are numerous, and endemic diseases are neither very frequent nor severe. It is indeed worthy of notice, that a tradition very generally prevails, that during the last infliction of the plague in Scotland, and while it raged with great virulence in the town of Ayr and the surrounding neighbourhood, it never reached Maybole, and that a curious confirmation of this immunity was given to the inhabitants in their entire exemption from the late visitations of the cholera.

* This measurement is taken in the common way from the county map, and is probably far from being accurate. By the returns of the different farmers there are 20661 imperial acres.

Springs.—There are several chalybeate springs in the parish, which in former times were valued for their healing virtues; but the only waters now prized are those from the excellent wells, which are found in every quarter. From the sloping grounds on which the town is built in particular, and which consist of strata of red sandstone, occasionally cropping out, springs of the purest water gush in abundance, and contribute largely to the health and comfort of the inhabitants. Most of these, indeed, vary in their supplies, and sometimes in the autumn of a dry season altogether withhold them; but there is one well worthy of notice, situate at the base of the declivity, called from the copiousness and velocity with which it issues from the rock, and some old trees that overhang it, the Well Trees Spout. The stream that flows from it never perceptibly diminishes, and is of sufficient magnitude to drive the wheel of a mill, to which purpose it was at one time applied; and by a measurement lately made with great care by Mr Andrews, the produce of the spring is not less than 10,000 imperial gallons per hour.

Rivers.—The rivers are the parts of the Doon and Girvan already noticed in describing the boundaries; and the only thing deserving of observation, as connected with the parish, is a change which has taken place in the course of the Doon, near its confluence with the sea. While it forms the northern boundary of the parish, from Cassilis to within a quarter of a mile of its mouth, it there ceases to do so; and the lands of Cunnan Park, a holm amounting to about fifty acres, are included in Maybole, although now on the Ayr side of the river. Upon examining, however, the exterior line of this holm, it is not difficult to observe the traces of an old water course; and there can be little doubt of what tradition affirms, that the Doon, when the boundaries of the parish were assigned, found its way by this course into the ocean. The old channel was quite circuitous; and when it is further observed that the sea is receding from the coast, having left even within the last forty years seven acres of land attached to Cunnan Park, it is not at all surprising that the waters made for themselves the present short and less sluggish course, which may be described as the chord, of which the old one is the arc.*

* A tradition indeed prevails that the alteration was produced artificially by Cromwell and his soldiers, but I have not been able to find any grounds whatever for receiving this as true; and it will be seen from what has just been stated, that no such operation was necessary to produce the change which has certainly taken place.

Geology and Mineralogy.—The sea coast affords a very distinct view of the geological structure of the parish, which may be generally described as composed of slightly inclined beds of red sandstone, traversed at frequent intervals by trap, sometimes in the form of dikes, and at other times of masses rising into hills. This structure, though simple in itself, is yet possessed of much interest, from recent speculations respecting the types to which the sandstones of the opposite coast of Arran should be referred.

Mr Murchison and Professor Sedgwick have published their views of the Arran strata in the *Geological Transactions*. The sandstone at Glen-Sannox is referred by them to the old red sandstone and conglomerate; and there can be little doubt of the accuracy of this conclusion, because there is a distinct point or axis from which the red sandstone dips in opposite directions, in each of which it is surmounted by a carboniferous series, which is, however, towards the south, obscurely developed. Towards the north, this series is covered by an upper red sandstone and conglomerate, which, at the time of examination, they were inclined to rank as the equivalents of the new red sandstone of England; although Professor Jameson, we understand, maintained that they were members of the coal formation. Professor Sedgwick, on reconsidering the subject, seems now disposed to view them as a great development of the carboniferous red sandstone.

For the determining of these points, an accurate examination of the corresponding strata of the Ayrshire coast has been much desired; and in the hope that the *Statistical Accounts* of the several parishes may contain descriptions of the portions they embrace, I have thought it proper to give the following brief notices of the appearances of the strata in this parish.

From the banks of the Doon to the Heads of Ayr, we find thin beds of sandstone, limestone, ironstone, and shale, dipping at an angle of from ten to fifteen degrees to the north-east under the Ayr coal field, and obviously belonging to the carboniferous series. These are frequently cut by trap dikes; and at Greenan Castle, the trap is observed overlying the sandstone. The Heads of Ayr consist of a black earthy tuffaceous trap, rising to about 200 feet, traversed at one part by a thick, hard, basaltic vein. To the south of the Heads we find strata of red sandstone and conglomerate, dipping, like those formerly noticed, towards the north-east, and traversed also by dikes

resembling the trap of the Heads in their proximity, and again at a distance becoming quite hard and basaltic. The whole coast onward to the Rancoch Glen, the southern boundary of the parish, may be described as similarly constituted,—the sandstone and conglomerate having throughout the same dip, and the trap appearing at intervals, either in veins or rising in more largely developed masses, forming lofty cliffs. It is, however, obvious that the strata now referred to are quite of a different character from those observed on the northern side of the Heads. The beds of sandstone are of a redder colour and greater thickness, and often pass into conglomerate; and, as their inclination shows that they dip under the former, which belong to the carboniferous series, we can have no hesitation in assigning them to the old red sandstone, and as occupying the same relative position with the sandstone on the north side of the anticlinal axis in Glen Sannox.

The prosecution of the survey along the coast of the parish of Kirkoswald, it may be added, presents a strong proof of the accuracy of this conclusion. The sandstone between the Rancoch Glen and the trap of Culzean Castle rock, at the Maidens, and for a considerable stretch of the coast beyond Turnbury, still maintains the same character and dip till within about half a mile of the farm of Dowhill, when the inclination changes to the south-west, and the strata then dip under the carboniferous series of the Girvan water, in correspondence with what is observed on the southern side of the Glen Sannox axis.

In tracing the strata stretching throughout the inland part of the parish, we find the same appearances as have been noticed on the line of coast. The whole of the red sandstone north and east of the town of Maybole dips towards the north-east under the coal measures of the Ayr field, and again, on approaching the Girvan water by the Kilkerran road, we observe it changing to the south-west, and dipping under the coal in the trough of that river.

Crystals of quartz of an amethyst colour are found in the trap at How-muir. The agates of the trap upon the coast have been much sought after, and are frequently of great size and beauty. The sandstone at the quarry of St Murrays often affords beautiful specimens of arborescence, from the presence of the black oxide of manganese, and it is traversed by veins of lead-ore, which have been noticed at Knockdon and the manse.

Fossil Organic Remains.—Towards the southern boundary of the parish there are a series of hollows between the undulations of the sandstone, some of them still in the state of lochs, and others of marshes. On draining some of them, it has been found, that, after penetrating a bed of soil and moss of about eight to ten feet in thickness, great deposits of marl occur, containing an immense number of organic remains. It is to be regretted, that, at the time the marl was excavated, no greater attention than what curiosity prompted was directed towards these interesting relics. Portions of different animals have, however, been preserved; and for the following notice of the heads of the elk and bos in the possession of Mr Kennedy of Drummellan, I am indebted to Dr M'Tyer of Redbrae, as also for the zoological notices which follow, and which will be found to include several rare species.

The fossil head of the *Cervus megaceros* differs from the specimen in the museum of the Royal Society of Dublin, in the head being larger, and the horns a little less, probably from the Drummellan animal having been aged. The dimensions of the two specimens are as follows:

	Dublin specimen. Ft. In.	Drummellan specimen. Ft. In.
Length of head,	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 11
Breadth between orbits,	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Distance between the tips of the horns measured by the skull,	11 10	10 4
Do. in straight line across,	9 2	7 5
Length of each horn,	5 9	5 0
Greatest breadth of palm,	2 9	2 7
Circumference of the beam at the root of the brow antler,	1 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Diameters of orbit,		0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

The other head appears to have belonged to a variety of *Bos taurus*, the forehead being concave. It measures ten inches between the horns, and 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches round the bole of the horn. Horns of the *Cervus elephas* were also found. Amongst the shells in the marl I have only observed specimens of *Limnea* and *Planorbis*.

Zoology.—The rarer animals are marine, as will be seen by the following list, chiefly made up of those found on the sea coast.

<i>Mammalia.</i>	<i>Alcedo ispida</i>	<i>Trigla Hirundo</i>
<i>Mustela erminea</i>	<i>Sterna minuta</i>	— — <i>laevis</i>
<i>Aves.</i>	<i>Reptiles.</i>	<i>Labrus Balanus</i>
<i>Otus brachiotus</i>	<i>Bufo Rubeta</i>	<i>Crenilabrus Tinca</i>
<i>Caprimulgus Europeanus</i>	<i>Pisces.</i>	<i>Crustacea.</i>
<i>Bombycilla garrula</i>	<i>Sparus aurata</i>	<i>Palinurus quadricornis</i>
<i>Otis tarda</i>	<i>Zeus Faber</i>	
AYR.	Z	

<i>Mollusca.</i>	<i>Polynoe laevis</i>	<i>Comatula barbata</i>
<i>Loligo media</i>	<i>Sigalion Mathildæ</i>	<i>Rhizostoma undulata</i>
<i>Octopus octopodia</i>	<i>Cirrhatulus fuscescens</i>	<i>Cassiopea lunulata</i>
<i>Cavolina peregrina</i>	<i>Syllis fulgurans</i>	<i>Zoophyta.</i>
<i>Eolida purpurascens</i>	<i>Phyllodoce laminosa</i>	<i>Halichondria panicea</i>
<i>Pleurobranchus plumula</i>	<i>Terebella Medusa</i>	————— <i>suberica</i>
<i>Anomia Aculeata</i>	————— <i>Radiata.</i>	<i>Berenicea coccinea</i>
<i>Annelides.</i>	<i>Actinia dianthus</i>	<i>Coryna squamata</i>
<i>Nereis iricolor</i>	————— <i>viridis</i>	————— <i>glandulosa</i>
<i>Aphrodita aculeata</i>	<i>Holothuria pellucida</i>	

An eyry of the falcon or game hawk is found annually on the Heads of Ayr. The motions of the birds over the cliffs are extremely beautiful, and they have been much prized for the purposes of falconry. It is said that some birds, as the common goldfinch for example, have become much less numerous, in consequence of the increased cultivation of the country.

The following shell-fish, important in an economical point of view, are found upon the coast, but, with the exception of the first, are very scarce: *Mytilus edulis*, *Ostrea edulis*, *Cardium edule*, *Pecten maximus*.

Botany.—The field for botanical research is extensive and diversified. Several miles of a rocky coast, an extensive tract of light dry land, a hilly range of some miles in length, with marshes and heaths on the surface, and a series of fresh water lochs and meadows, afford a great variety of localities and a number of rare plants. Mr James Smith of Monkwood, whose labours have enriched the catalogue of our Scottish species, has examined all these localities, and I have been chiefly indebted to him for the following list, several of which have been discovered and named by himself. The list might have been greatly extended, but it will be obvious that even it embraces many plants which cannot be considered as rare. They are arranged according to the Linnean system, and the localities are added.

<i>Veronica anagallis</i> , Auchendrane Mill.	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> , sand on Dunure shore
<i>Utricularia minor</i> , Millhill Moss.	<i>Samolus valerandi</i> , wet rocks do.
<i>Fida agrigata</i> , James Smith on Carrick-shore, Bramerhill.	<i>Ligusticum Scoticum</i> , Dunduff shore.
<i>Festuca bromoides</i> , Millhill.	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i> , salt marsh on do
<i>Radiola Millegrana</i> .	<i>Convolvulus Soldanella</i> , sea shore.
<i>Centunculus minimus</i> , near Monkwood.	<i>Allium vineale</i> , above Dunure Castle.
<i>Atropa Belladonna</i> , Dunure Castle.	<i>Scilla verna</i> , Dunure.
<i>Lithospermum maritimum</i> , near do.	<i>Acorus Calamus</i> , Laigh Culzean Meadows.
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> , Castle Rock over the Sea.	<i>Rumex Palustris</i> , marshes sea shore.
<i>Polemonium cæruleum</i> , old road over Carrick-hill.	<i>Alisma natans</i> , Millhill Moss.
<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i> , water on top of Carrick-hill.	<i>A. ranunculoides</i> , do.
<i>Viola lactea</i> , Knotkover.	<i>Paris quadrifolia</i> .
<i>Verbascum Thapsus</i> , Dunure shore.	<i>Pyrola media</i> , road near Pennyglen.
	<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i> , Brae.
	<i>Saxifraga aizoides</i> , rocks Dunduff shore.
	————— <i>granulata</i> , High Smiston.
	<i>Stellaria nemorum</i> , Monkwood.

- Stellaria scapigera*, do.
Cotyledon umbilicus, shore at Dunure Castle.
Spergula saginoides, Carrick-hill.
Euphorbia exigua, Fields above Dunure Castle.
Pyrus Aria, above rocks at Dunure.
Rubus suberectus, Brae.
 — *corylifolius*, near Monkwood.
 — *saxatilis*, do.
Glaucium luteum, Dunure harbour.
Thalictrum minus, do.
Ranunculus Lingua, Heart Loch.
Lathraea squamaria, Blairston.
Antirrhinum minus, field above Dunure Castle.
Teesdalia nudicaulis, sea shore.
Cakile maritima, do.
Cardamine minor, Monkwood, J. Smith.
Arabis hirsuta, rocky coast Bowerhill.
Brassica Monensis, sea shore.
Geranium Columbinum, Drummellan Glen.
Malva moschata, } Bowerhill.
 — *sylvestris*, }
Lathyrus sylvestris, Rancoch Glen.
Vicia lutea, Dunure Castle.
Ornithopus perpusillus, Sea Shore.
Astragalus hypoglottis, top of rocks Bowerhill.
Trifolium ornithopodioides } Cunnan
 — *striatum* } Park.
 — *campestre*, J. Smith, common on barren land, but not distinguished, confounded with *T. pratense*, but quite distinct. Cattle dont eat it.
Lotus angustifolia, J. Smith, Monkwood.
Hypericum androsæmum, } Above rocks
 — *calycinum*, } on shore.
 — *dubium*, Rancoch Glen.
 — *montanum*, New Mill Monkwood.
Hypericum hirsutum, Bowerhill.
Sonchus oleraceus, common.
 — *lacerum*, } These very singular species or varieties quite different plants. J. Smith.
 — *montanum*, }
 — *maritimum*, }
Cichorium Intybus, Blairston and near Maybole.
Bidens cernua, Heart Loch.
Tanacetum vulgare, Glen near Dunduff Castle.
Gnaphalium rectum, } Shore by Bowerhill.
 — *minimum*, }
 — *germanicum*, }
 — *margaritaceum*, }
Aster Tripolium, Dunure shore.
Pyrethrum maritimum, do.
Inula helenium, Dunure Castle.
Orchis albida, } Declivities of Carrick-hill.
 — *viridis*, }
 — *conopsea*, }
Listera cordata, among heath on Carrickhill.
Malaxis paludosa, Hills above Dunure
Sparganium simplex, } Millhill Moss.
 — *natans*, }
 — *acutifolia*, distinct species in same locality, with very small heads, not named, J. Smith.
Carex limosa, Knockdon Moss.
 — *pendula*, Banks of Doon.
Aspidium Oreopteris, Rocks near sea.
Asplenium marinum, do.
Botrychium Lunaria, Carrick-hill.
Ophioglossum vulgatum, do.
Lycopodium selaginoides, do.
 — *alpinum*, do.
Equisetum fluviatile, Knockdon Glen.
 — *hyemale*.
Pilularia globulifera, Greenan.

II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

I am not aware of any works, printed or MS. devoted entirely to the history of this parish, but there are several documents of considerable interest illustrative of past events, and which refer largely to it. The chief of these are, the "Historie of the Kennedyis," published in 1830, from an original MS. in the library of the Faculty of Advocates, by Mr Pitcairn;—an account, by John Knox, published in 1563, of a disputation held betwixt him and Quentin Kennedy, Abbot of Crossraguel, in the town of Maybole, the only copy of which was in the Auchinleck Library, but a fac-simile of which was reprinted by Sir Alexander Boswell in 1812;—and, lastly, "A Description of Carrick, by Mr William Abercrommie, minister at Maybole," and which has also been printed from Macfarlan's MS. in the Advocates' Library, by Mr

Pitcairn, forming No. 3 of his Appendix to the History of the Kennedys. Great light has been thrown by these works both on the civil and ecclesiastical state of the country, at and before the accession of King James to the English throne; and the following notices of events, the scenes of which were laid in this parish, have appeared to me not only of local, but even of such general interest as justly to entitle them to a place in this Account. I shall particularly notice two of those events, not only as remarkable in themselves, but as intimately connected with the history of the Reformation, and as setting forth, in striking colours, that union of religious zeal and feudal violence by which its triumphs were at first achieved.

One of the most learned, upright, and liberal of the servants of Popery, at the period when Knox was attacking and levelling its strongholds, was Quentin Kennedy, uncle of the Earl of Cassilis, and Abbot of Crossraguel; and after the publication of several tracts on the controversy raised by the doctrines of the Reformer, he, in the year 1561, proclaimed himself, in his chapel of Kirkoswald, ready to defend the mass against any one who would impugn it,—a challenge which Knox failed not to accept of. After a very interesting correspondence about the place of meeting, Knox insisting on all possible publicity, and the abbot objecting to this, on the grounds of desiring to avoid tumult, and his preference of a limited audience, as in all respects better fitted to judge fairly of the matters in dispute; they at length agreed to meet in the house of the Provost of Maybole, with forty persons on each side, and notaries to record their arguments and proceedings.

Accordingly, on the 28th day of September, these champions, accompanied with their several retinues, including several of the nobles and gentry of the country, entered Maybole, and met in a dingy-panelled room, in the house of the provost, which still remains, and is now occupied as the tavern of the Red Lion. Their meeting was characteristic. Knox immediately suggested the propriety of commencing the proceedings with prayer; and, on the abbot being offended at the proposal, he would yet in nowise be stayed, and he and his followers had of course to give audience. The abbot seems soon to have been subdued by the power and fervency of Knox's supplications, and honestly yielding to his feelings, he said at the close, "Be my faith, it is well said." The controversy turned chiefly on the priesthood

of Melchisedec, as bearing on the sacrifice of the mass, prefigured, according to the Papists, by his offering of bread and wine. There was, however, notwithstanding the learning and acuteness displayed on both sides, a good deal of quibbling and tedious altercation; and after the dispute had been prolonged for three days, without ever embracing any of the great points between the contending parties, the noblemen and gentry, cooped up in a small apartment, and ill-supplied with suitable entertainment and accommodation, withdrew, and the dispute never was resumed. But although the meeting brought out nothing new touching the matter in dispute, it was not without its influence in forwarding the great work of the Reformation. Public attention could not fail to be directed by such a conference to the enlightened views and the holy purposes of Knox; and a lively sense of the services which he did to their forefathers, has descended to their children of the present day. The inhabitants of Maybole have instituted a "Knox Club," which holds a triennial festival, at which men of all parties meet, to testify their gratitude for their deliverance from the domination of Rome, and their secure enjoyment of Protestant principles, achieved for them by Knox and his coadjutors.*

But while Popery was thus shaken by the weapons of reason and of truth, there were many altogether indifferent to the Protestant cause, who were yet ready to join in the attack on the falling fabric of the church, for the purpose of seizing on its revenues and power; and I have next to relate, as an instance of this, one of the most remarkable scenes recorded in provincial history. Quentin Kennedy was succeeded in his office of Abbot of Crossraguel by Allan Stewart, and the barbarous treatment to which he was subjected, to wring from him the titles of his property, forms a striking part of the "History of the Kennedys." The most graphic account, however, of the transaction is given by Richard Bannatyne in his "Memoriales," which is quoted by Mr Pitcairn in his excellent notes; and it may also be added, that every part of Bannatyne's narrative is distinctly confirmed by the abbot's own statements in his "bill of supplication to the Lords of Privy-Council." Gilbert, fourth Earl of Cassilis, appears to have been a man of most rapacious and unscrupulous character. He had already, by forgery and murder, possessed himself of the abbacy of Glen-

* See the reprint of the original work of Knox referred to, and Dr M'Crie's Life of the Reformer, where a very distinct account of the disputation is to be found.

luce; and he only waited a proper opportunity to attach Crossraguel, lying in his vicinity, to his estates. Allan Stewart, the abbot, who lived under the protection of the Laird of Bargany, was at length, under hospitable pretences, enticed to leave his safeguard, and to pass some days in Maybole with Thomas Kennedy, brother of the Earl, from whence he was taken to the Castle of Dunure, the original seat of the family, and the ruins of which still stand gloomily on a rock, whose base is washed by the sea on the western boundary of the parish. But we give the words of the original account:

‘Efter the which the said Mr Allane passed with quyet company to visie the place and boundes of Croceraguall, whair of the said Erle being surelie advertised, determined to put in practeis the tyranny which long before he had conceaved. And so, as king of the countrie, apprehendit the said Mr Allane, and carried him to the house of Dunure, where for a season he was honourable entertained (gif a prisoner can think ony interteanment pleasing :) but after that certaine dayis were spent, and that the Erle culd not obtene the fewis of Croceraguall according to his awin appetite, he determined to prove gif a collatione could work that, which neather dennor nor supper could doe of a long tyme. And so, the said Mr Allane was carried to a secret chalmer; with him passed the honourable Erle, his worschepful brother, and sic as was appointed to be servantis at that banquet. In the chalmer there was a grit iron chimlay, under it a fyre: other grit proveione was not sene. The first cours was, ‘my Lord Abbot (said the Erle) it will pleis you confess heir, that with your awin consent ye remane in my company, becaus ye darre not comitt you to the handis of utheris.’ The Abbote answerit, ‘Wald ye, my Lord, that I should mak a manifest leising, for your pleasour? The treuth is, my Lord, it is against my will that I am heir; neither yet have I ony pleasour in your company.’—‘Bot ye sall remane with me at this tyme,’ said the Erle.—‘I am not able to resist your will and pleasour,’ said the Abbote, ‘in this place.’—‘Ye man then obey me!’ said the Erle. And with that were presented unto him certane letteris to subscrieve, amonges which there was a fyve yeare tack and a 19 yeare tack, and a charter of feu of all landis of Croceraguall, with all the clausses necessaire for the Erle to haist him to hell! For gif adulterie, sacriledge, oppressions, barbarous creweltis, and thift heaped upon thift deserve hell, the great King of Carrick can no more

eschape hell, for ever, nor the imprudent Abbot eschaped the fyre for a cessione, as followes.

‘ Efter that the Erle espyed repugnance, and that he culd not come to his purpose be fair means, he comandit his coockis to prepare the banquet. And so first, they fled the scheip, that is, they took of the Abbotis cleathes, even to his skyn : And nixt, they band him to the chimlay, his leggis to the one end and his armes to the uther ; and so they began to bait the fyre, sometymes to his buttockis, sometymes to his leggis, sometymes to his shulderis and armes. And that the rost suld not burne, but that it might rost in soppe, they spared not flambing with oyle. (Lord luik thou to sic creweltie.) And that the crying of the miserable man suld not be hard, they closed his mouth, that the voice myght be stopped. In that torment they held the poore man, whill that oft-tymes he cryed, ‘ for Godis sake to despatch him : for he had as mekle gold in his awn purse, as wad buy pouldèr aneugh, to shorten his paine.’ The famous King of Carrick, and his coockes, perceiving the rost to be aneugh, comandit it to be tane fra the fyre, and the Erle himself began the grace in this maner : ‘ Benedicite Jesus, Maria ! You are the most obstinate man that ever I saw ! Gif I had knowin that ye had been so stubborne, I wold not for a thousand crownis handled you so ! I never did so to man befoir you.’ And yet, he returned to the same practeis, within two days, and ceased not till that he obtaned his formest purpose ; that is, that he had gotten all his pieces subscrivit, alsweil as ane half-rosted hand culd do it !”

It is impossible not to connect these events together, as alike indicative of the tottering state of Popery. Abbot Quentin would have scorned the idea of defending his religion, if Knox had not made him feel that it was sinking beneath his feet, and Cassilis would not thus unjustly have assailed his successor if he had not witnessed the decay of the faith which his property had been given to support, and it hence happened in this as in many other cases, that what zeal for religious liberty began, rapacity for the property of the church completed.*

I now turn to the state of society during this period, and am able, from the history of the Kennedys and other sources, to produce from the annals of the parish of Maybole, some of the most vivid illustrations of these olden times. On the farm of west Enoch, a short way from Lady Corse, and on the south side of a small burn

* See Bannatyne Journal in Mr Graham Dalryell's "Illustrations of Scottish History," and Notes and Illustrations to the History of the Kennedys, &c.

that flows down the valley, there is a curious mound of earth and stones, nearly opposite to Bogside, which has always been regarded as the locality of some warlike exploit; and the author of the old history referred to, has connected with it, by a description so graphic as not to be mistaken, a story of ruthless violence and most tragic interest.

The feuds between the Earls of Cassilis and the Lairds of Bargany had been of long continuance, and were scarcely healed, till by some new act of treachery or violence they broke out anew. On the 11th day of December 1601, the Earl of Cassilis having learned that the Laird of Bargany was to ride from the town of Ayr to his own mansion on the water of Girvan, attended only by a few followers, determined to waylay and attack the party. He accordingly left his castle of Maybole with 200 armed followers, and took his station at the Lady Corse, about half a-mile north of the town. The Laird of Bargany, with his small retinue, soon appeared at the Brochloch, on the opposite side of the valley, and seeing the Earl thus attended, said to his men that he desired no feud, and would not throw himself in the Earl's way. He accordingly led them down the north bank of the rivulet by Bogside, thinking that in this way he might prosecute his route homewards without coming into collision at such disadvantage with his enemy. The Earl, however, determined to avail himself of his superior force, followed down the south side, and coming to some "feal dikes," which offered a good support to the fire-arms of his followers, they immediately began to discharge them at Bargany and his men.*

Bargany finding that he could not avoid the rencontre, crossed the burn; but on reaching the south side of it, he perceived that none had ventured to follow him "but the Lairdes of Auchendrayne and Cloncaird, James Bannatyne and Edward Irwing;" and on observing this, he turned round and said, "Gude sirs, we are ower few!" They nevertheless defended themselves with great bravery, and wounded or slew the first of the assailants; but, overpowered with superior numbers, Auchendrayne was ere long "shott and hurte in the kernellis of the thie, and his horse also: James Bannatyne's horse was slayne: Edward Irwing, the peadge, was slayne be ane straike of ane lanse. Bot now," continues our author, who

* At no distant period a "feal dike" stretched along the side of the small burn near to the mound referred to, and probably formed a part of it. The names of all the places mentioned by the old historian still remain, and nothing can be more distinct than the scene of the movements and onset which he so spiritedly relates.

speaks with enthusiasm and eloquence of Bargany, "bot now, to speak of the nobill youthe, how gallantly he behaiffit him selff, my penne can nocht writt the same; for being bot this way accompanyitt with thir fywe menne, thair was against him the number of 30 horsemenne, quha all geiff the charge and straikis to thir fywe. Yet quhan that thair wes of thame twa unhorssitt and ane slayne, sa that their wes nane with him bot ane, yitt he wald nocht stay his curradge, bot raid through me Lordis menne, hard to me Lord, and cryit, 'quhair is me Lord him selff! Lett him now keep promise and brek ane trie!'" This challenge was unheeded, he was pressed from all sides, and at length was basely struck from behind, while he was gallantly defending himself against his assailants. The weapon went "through the craig and through the thropill," and thus, mortally wounded, he was conveyed to Maybole, where my Lord, as "Judge Ordinar" of the country, determined to put him to death if he showed any symptoms of recovery. He was, however, carried from thence to Ayr, and died in twenty-three hours. He appears to have been a person of great promise, and to have been held in high estimation, and his character is thus depicted by the old historian: "He was the brawest manne that was to be gotten in ony land; of hiche stataur, and weill maid; his hair blak, bott of ane cumlie feace; the brawest horsemanne, and the best at all pastymis. For he was feerse and feirry, and wonder nembill. He was about the age of 25 yieris quhane he was slayne, bot of his aige the maist wyise he mycht be; for gif he had tyme to had experianse to his witt, he had been by his marrawis."

The details of this murderous deed are not more characteristic of the times than the impunity with which it was passed over. It was, indeed, of too flagrant a nature to be left unnoticed, even in the "Judge Ordinar;" but my Lady of Cassilis, who had friends at court, rode to Edinburgh, and obtained his Majesty's favour to her husband, who "gott this mukill grantit, that my Lord suld cum hemself, and deall with the thesaurer for his escheitt;"—"and by reason," as the historian farther informs us, "of ten thousand markis" given to that important functionary, "there was obtenit to me Lord ane act of counsall, makand all that me Lord had done gude service to the King!"

It must, however, be remarked, that our author is on all occasions partial to Auchendrane, who had married the daughter of old Bargany, the father of the youth who thus fell; and it will be

seen, that Sir W. Scott, in his prefatory notice to the tragedy of Auchendrane, relates the circumstances more favourably to the Earl of Cassilis.

Out of the events of this bloody action arose the series of dark and tragical deeds on which Sir Walter founded his tragedy. Auchendrane, to revenge the death of Bargany and his own wound, on being apprized by Sir Thomas Kennedy of Cullayne of his intention to visit Edinburgh, instigated a party of his followers to waylay him at the place he had appointed for a friendly meeting, where they accordingly found and murdered him. Auchendrane was strongly suspected of being the instigator of this crime, but he boldly denied all knowledge of Cullayne's journey, and saw that no evidence of his guilt could be produced, if he could only keep out of the way the messenger who had given him notice of the place of meeting. It so happened, that the person who brought the message of Cullayne to Maybole transmitted it from thence to Mure by the hands of a poor student of the name of Dalrymple, who in consequence became the object of his fears. Notwithstanding various places of confinement at Auchendrane and the Isle of Arran, and even his removal to the low countries, where he served in Buccleuch's regiment for five or six years, Dalrymple still returned to the country, and Mure determined to trust no longer to temporary expedients, resolved upon his death. He was accordingly enticed by a vassal of Mure's, James Bannatyne, to his house at Chapeldonan, a solitary spot on the sea shore, and there, at midnight, by the elder and younger Mures, was murdered and buried in the sand. The hasty and imperfect sepulture was immediately undone by the advancing tide, and they had recourse to the expedient of carrying the body out to sea, in the hope that the wind, which blew strongly from the shore, would remove for ever from their coasts the evidence of their crime. But Providence ere long brought it back to the very spot of the murder, and the public indignation was soon directed towards Mure, whose tamperings with Dalrymple had formerly been noticed. His fears were in consequence transferred to Bannatyne, whom, in his turn, he and his son attempted to murder; but Bannatyne being put upon his guard, eluded their stratagems. He soon, however, found his life so miserable, at once from the persecution of the Mures and the power of his own conscience, that he confessed his crime, and revealed all the circumstances of the foul transaction in which he had been an accomplice. The Mures, against whom the King

had become already strongly prejudiced, and whom he had subjected to rigorous imprisonment, were brought to the Bar, pronounced guilty, and executed amid general execration. The public feeling on this occasion is not less illustrative of the character of the times than the leniency with which such deeds as the slaughter of Bargany were viewed. The chivalry and pride of family feuds threw a splendour over the latter, in which their criminality was forgotten; while in the former case, the absence of all such garniture permitted the natural horror, which cold and deliberate murder excites in the human breast, to come into its full operation.

The ruins of the Castle of Auchendrane are still to be traced on the banks of the Doon, near to Monkwood Bridge, on the low road from Ayr to Maybole; but the last of the family of the Mures long ago died in circumstances of the greatest poverty. The judgments of Heaven have, indeed, in their case, been visibly and awfully displayed. One after another perished in meanness and marked disgrace, and their lands passed into the hands of others.*

Eminent Characters.—Dr Macknight, the author of many standard works, was admitted minister of Maybole in the year 1753; and while he discharged the duties of the parish most conscientiously, and with great acceptance, for sixteen years, he also published during that time the “Harmony,” and the “Truth of the Gospel Histories,” the former in 1756, and the latter in 1763.

He was succeeded by Dr Wright, who was also held in great estimation, and who published a volume of sermons.

The late Lord Alloway, so distinguished as a Judge in the Court of Session, resided during the vacations at Blairston, on the banks of the Doon, and took much delight in beautifying a place of great natural amenity. He was held in high estimation by all ranks in the parish.

Land-owners.—The chief land-owners are, The Marquis of Ailsa; T. F. Kennedy of Dunure; Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran; Elias Cathcart of Auchendrane; Quentin Kennedy of Drummellan; Sir David Hunter Blair; W. Craufurd of Doonside; George M. Torrance, Grange; John Fergusson of Monkwood.

* Pitcairn's Criminal Trials.—Sir W. Scott's Introduction to the Tragedy of Auchendrane, and the Histories of the Kennedys.

Parochial Registers.—The earliest entry of a birth is in January 1712; and the register of births is continued regularly from that date down to the present day. The register of proclamations of banns and marriages is of a much more recent date, and does not seem to have been accurately kept. The earliest date of minutes of session is December 1777. A very accurate register of deaths, and the age and the diseases of the deceased, has been kept for the last few years; and the mode of furnishing a document so important is at the same time so simple, that its general adoption is much to be desired. A small fee leads the church-officer to make the requisite inquiries at every funeral. The result is given into the kirk-session every Sabbath after sermon, and is then entered into a book. If there is any defect in the information, the elder best acquainted with the relatives of the deceased makes farther inquiry, and reports to the succeeding meeting.

In so far as the parish registers may be depended upon, the average births for the last seven years have been 151; marriages, 51; deaths, 135.

Antiquities.—The ruins of several religious houses are still to be traced in different parts of the parish. The walls of the church of Kirkbride, on the farm of Dunduff, are distinct, the surrounding burying-ground is still used, and an adjoining field bears the name of the Priest's Land. At Auchendrane and elsewhere, the *rudera* of similar erections were visible when Abercrommie wrote his Journal. Kirkbride has generally been considered as a parish united to Maybole, but, being unable to find any notice of the union, I am rather inclined to think that it and the other ruins referred to were chapels attached to the collegiate church of Maybole. This last was an establishment of considerable importance, and had a rector and three prebends. It was endowed out of the provost and priest's lands in the parish of Kirk-michael, which fell into the hands of the Earl of Cassilis, upon the dissolution of the college at the Reformation. The Black House and Well Trees still remain of the residences of the priests, and the orchards that surrounded the others are well known. The collegiate church is used as a burying-place by the family of Cassilis, and others who formerly contributed to its repair. It was, nevertheless, allowed to fall into a most ruinous and filthy condition, from which it was only rescued by the public spirit of Mr Andrews, and the inhabitants of Maybole, who a few years ago,

by subscription, surrounded it with a wall, and tastefully laid out and planted the enclosure.

There are throughout the parish the remains of a great many castles, the ancient seats of those feudal chiefs who figure in the history of the Kennedys, and in the civil broils of the times. Besides the Castle of Maybole, the former residence of the Earls of Cassilis, and the principal part of which is still in excellent preservation, there are, more or less entire, the Castles of Newark, Greenan, Dunduff, Dunure, and Kilhenzie; while those of Bridgend or Doonside, Smithstowne, Sauchrie, Craigskean, Beoch, Garryhome, Glenayes, Brochlock, and Dalduff, are only to be traced in a few ruinous walls.

There are also within the town of Maybole several remains of its former consequence and splendour, when, as the provincial capital it was resorted to in winter by many of the principal families in Carrick. Besides the dwellings of the ecclesiastics and the Earl of Cassilis, commonly designated in these days the King of Carrick, the following houses of the gentry still remain; the present tolbooth, the town residence of the Lairds of Blairquhan; the house of Sir Thomas Kennedy of Culzean, now belonging to Mr Niven of Kirkbride; the house of Kennedy of Ballemore, in the Kirk Wynd; the Garden of Eden, the house of the abbots of Crossraguel, &c. extending, according to some, to the number of twenty-eight.

The civil jurisdiction of Carrick was a bailliarie, belonging heritably to the Earls of Cassilis; and Maybole derived an additional degree of consequence from being the ordinary seat of the courts of justice, when the most important cases were tried, and the punishment of death frequently inflicted. The Gallow Hill still points out the place of execution; and there are people alive who remember those who could tell as a tale of their youth, the history of criminals whom they saw suffer.

On an eminence, over the farm of Trees, there is a very distinct encampment; and traces of similar enclosures, by mounds of earth, are visible in other places, and more particularly near the Castle of Dunduff. It is common to designate them as Roman Camps; but they appear of far too inconsiderable dimensions to be connected with the history of that great people, and are far more likely the remains of small forts erected by the Irish, who frequently overran the country, and many of which, of the very same form and construction, are still found in Ireland.

That the Romans traversed the parish there can, however, be no doubt. The great road passes through the parishes of Dalrymple and Ayr, at no great distance; and a spear head of bronze, shaped like a saddler's knife, and made by incurvated edges to fit upon a shaft, dug up in the farm of Drumbeg, and a small image of the same metal representing justice with her equal weights, found in the farm of Drumshang, and now both in my possession, attest their presence, in the monuments they furnish of their wars and their superstition.

Near the Castle of Dunduff, a coin of Albert and Elizabeth of Bruges and Brabant, about the size of a crown piece, was lately turned up by the plough. It bears no date, but as they reigned about 1680, its existence in that locality may readily be accounted for in many ways. It was then common for Scotsmen to enlist in the service of the low countries, and it may have been part of the earnings of years of hardship, brought back to his native spot by some veteran soldier. Smuggling was also extensively carried on, and it was not uncommon also to pay soldiers serving in the country in foreign money. Tumuli containing bones, of which there is a good specimen on the farm of St Murrays, are common.

Abercummie mentions many remains of Catholic superstition, which are now almost forgotten. St Helen's Well, to the north of Baloch Mount, was long famous for the cure of unthriving children, at the change of the quarter, and more particularly at May-day, and was greatly resorted to even at a recent date. Pennyglen's Cross Well, also enjoyed great reputation for the cure of cows "taken with mure-ill," and was carried even to great distances, as "by drinking thereof, they are healed."

Modern Buildings.—The church is a plain structure, with a steeple in the worst possible taste. By a recent repair the interior has been rendered comfortable and neat. There is no other building worthy of notice, but it may still be consolatory to observe, that, notwithstanding the decline which this would indicate from the former grandeur of Maybole, there is not one of the ancient houses of the gentry referred to, which is not far surpassed in accommodation and comfort by the houses of the respectable inhabitants of the present day.

III.—POPULATION.

Ancient State.—The ancient state of the population of this parish must have been liable to much disturbance and fluctuation. In common with other parts of Carrick, it was traversed by the Ro-

mans, who conquered the **aborigines**. It was then successively overrun by the **Northumbrians**, the Scots, and the Irish. It was afterwards **infested** by the Danes and Norwegians, and by the English during the struggles of Wallace and Bruce. The feuds of hostile chieftains, the struggles of the Reformation, and the defence of presbytery against the persecutions of the house of Stuart, succeeded; and in 1676 particularly, there appears to have been a fearful loss of life. Yet, notwithstanding all these causes of disturbance, there are traces of a considerable population from very remote times, in the ruins, cairns, and marks of culture, which are found in every part of the parish. In the palmy days of Popery, the town must have had a considerable population, from the large ecclesiastical establishment of the Collegiate Church, with all its officers and dependents, as well as from the residence of the gentry referred to under the head of Civil History. After the Reformation, and the great changes in the state of society consequent upon it, there appears to have been a decrease of the population from that period to the close of the last century. From that time to the present, the numbers have increased both in the town and country; in the former they have been doubled, amounting now, from the influx of Irish weavers, to 4000; while in the country the spirit of agricultural improvement has also caused an increase, and where the population is between 2000 and 3000. There are none of the nobility or large proprietors who reside within the bounds of the parish. Their mansion-houses are for the most part in the neighbouring parishes; those that are within it are empty or let; and there are only five proprietors of land of the value of L. 50 and upwards, actually resident.

The peasantry may be generally stated to be of athletic and active habits, decidedly intelligent and moral, attached, with a very few exceptions, to the Established Church, and possessed in consequence of that steady and rational piety, which even in periods of great excitement has kept them in peace, and rendered voluntarism itself unknown, or altogether uninteresting in this district. They speak the expressive language of Burns, are well clothed, and, upon the whole, keep their cottages in a cleanly state, although it is to be lamented that many should still be so deficient in this respect.

There are 4 deaf and dumb persons, 2 or 3 fatuous, and about the same number occasionally insane, but there has not been for many years any one in a state to require constant confinement in an asylum.

Smuggling had at one time made considerable encroachment on the morals of the people, but it has now for many years been almost totally abandoned, and beyond a few casks of *Arran water* from the opposite shores, and a little soap from Ireland, is unknown.

The country people upon the whole enjoy the ordinary comforts of life, and are contented in their circumstances. The population in the town is in many respects very different. The introduction of manufactures has raised many in the scale of affluence and comfort, but it has led many of the operatives into habits of dissipation, and the Irish in particular, although there are honourable exceptions, are but too generally drunken and filthy in their persons and houses. There are a great many poachers. The number of public-houses is a reproach to all concerned in maintaining them, and pawnbroking, their invariable attendant, has increased to an alarming extent, and threatens, with the spirit-shop, the ruin of the poorer classes.

The number residing in the town by a census lately taken by the kirk-session is very nearly 4000. There are no villages of any consequence, and the rest of the population, amounting to about 2400, are distributed over the different farms.

IV.—INDUSTRY.

Agriculture.—The extent, variety of surface, and great recent improvements, combine to render this parish highly important as an agricultural district.

The total number of acres, as taken from the returns made by the different farmers, is,

Total imperial acres,	- - -	20,681
Of these arable,	- - -	16,684
Under plantation,	- - -	948
Hill pasture and moorland,	- - -	2400
Meadow,	- - -	564
	- - -	20,681

The arable land consists, partly of a light soil, which produces excellent crops of potatoes, turnips and oats; and partly of a strong clay soil, which yields upon being thoroughly drained heavy crops of wheat.

The hill pasture and moorland occur chiefly on the summits and declivities of the Brown Carrick range of hills, and recent experiments have shewn, that even much of these might be profitably improved, more especially with a view to superior permanent pasture. The farmers occupying them are generally men of intelligence and enterprise, and have all done more or less in this species of improvement. The efforts of the late Mr M^r Janet

of Drumshang, are of sufficient magnitude and importance to entitle them to a particular notice. The farm of Drumshang consists of upwards of 1000 imperial acres, 600 of which are, or rather were, in the state of moor, and the scanty herbage found among the heather that covered the greater part of it, may be inferred from the fact of the whole being valued at from 3s. to 4s. per acre. The tract selected by Mr M^cJanet for his experiments was a part of this, lying on trap rock, and about 750 feet above the level of the sea. Little drainage was required, and he therefore commenced his operations by stripping off the surface, burning it, and then spreading the ashes over the soil. He afterwards laid upon it 20 bushels of bone-dust per acre, and in the usual way prepared it for, and sowed it with, turnips. They proved a full and excellent crop, and were consumed entirely on the ground with sheep. The next season he sowed the whole with oats and barley with grass-seeds. The oats were an abundant crop, averaging seven quarters per acre; the barley was rather light, yielding only about four quarters. The grass over the whole came up thick and fine, and is now in pasture, which is considered well worth L. 1 per acre. The tract thus reclaimed was considerably above 100 acres, and the whole being done in two years, the Highland Society conferred on Mr M^cJanet their gold medal, for the greatest extent of waste land in Scotland brought into cultivation within the shortest time. The expenses attendant on such operations, appear, however, too great to be borne by the tenant, and the poor return for agricultural produce, threatens to arrest the speed of the plough, and to diminish rather than increase the amount of cultivated land.

In such circumstances, too, an immediate increase of produce becomes essential to the farmer, and instead of looking to the tardy returns of reclaimed waste, he is led to apply his capital to the more perfect improvement of his arable land by furrow-draining. This process is very expensive also, costing when done, either with stones or tiles, from L. 5 to L. 7 per acre. But landlords seem peculiarly disposed to aid their tenants in this great and permanent improvement, either by advancing the whole capital required, and charging a per centage of additional rent, or by contributing a proportion of the expense, and leaving the farmer the whole benefit during the remainder of his lease. From all I have seen and heard both from landlords and tenants, I consider furrow-draining upon clayey and retentive soils as the grand improve-

ment in recent agriculture, and which promises, above all other things, to compensate for lowness of price by increase of produce.

The actual rental of the parish amounts to nearly L. 19,000, making the average rent per acre between 18s. and 19s. Leases are of nineteen years length. With the exception of a few farms, ranging from 200 to 1000 acres, where the farm-houses are commodious and comfortable, and the offices substantial and extensive, the greater number of the farms are small, many from only 40 to 100 acres; and these, which are generally cultivated by the farmer and his family, who work hard and live plainly, have, with few exceptions, very poor accommodations, both in dwelling-houses and offices.

Gross Amount of Raw Produce.—It is extremely difficult to get accurate returns under this head; but the following results are taken from reports procured from each of the farmers, and are, I have no doubt, near to the truth. The prices were calculated at about the average of the last three years.

Wheat,	-	L. 10,510
Oats,	-	9946
Beans,	-	1392
Barley,	-	219
Potatoes,	-	6257
Turnips,	-	5202
Cultivated hay,	-	4013
Meadow hay,	-	563
Pasture,		9100

L. 47,202

There are besides small quantities of beet; about L. 300 per annum for orchards and garden ground; about L. 50 per annum for wood.

There is a salmon fishery at the mouth of the Doon, of which a notice will be found in the account of the parish of Ayr.

At Dunure there is also a small sea-fishing establishment, but with respect to the fish taken there, and their appearances on our coasts, I have also to refer to the account of the parish of Ayr.

Live-Stock.—The breed of cattle is almost exclusively the Ayrshire, which has attained so much celebrity for the purposes of the dairy, and which seems also well adapted for the butcher-market. An attempt has been recently made to introduce the short-horned breed for the latter purpose, and I have seen very fine animals of that species, and also of the cross between it and the Ayrshire, and which both attained to a much greater weight than the native cattle ever reach. On inquiry, however, I found that such had uniformly required a great deal of extra feeding, and I have little doubt that

the generality of our farmers will have as much weight of beef, at a much less amount of expense, at the end of the year, from the feeding of the Ayrshire cattle, which seem in every respect best fitted to the nature and powers of the soil.

The sheep fed in the parish, which are comparatively few in number, are chiefly of the black-faced and Cheviot breeds, although, on some of the best farms, the Leicester breed have also been introduced.

Manufactures.—There are no manufacturing establishments of any consequence in the parish; but, as has invariably happened on the west coast, the influences of Glasgow and the proximity of Ireland, have drawn to the town and every little hamlet a great population of hand-loom weavers. These are all employed by the manufacturers of Glasgow through the medium of a class of middle-men, called agents, and who, from the improvidence of the weavers, who are mostly Irish, and their practice of keeping shops and paying them in kind, are generally very prosperous. This system is in many respects calculated to depress the condition of the operative. He applies for goods to the agent, and gets into debt. He must then purchase at the agent's own price, and is generally in poverty. Yet, on the other hand, the extreme improvidence of the Irish renders them little capable of being entrusted with money; their wages might all be expended on whisky; and when the agents do not in any part pay them in it, a practice that cannot be too severely reprobated, the plan of giving articles of food and clothing instead of cash, is perhaps conducive to the welfare of their families. The transaction is, indeed, an infringement of the law of the land, and on this account some of the agents pay their weavers in money, but the truck system is easily followed by a shopkeeper without any direct violation of the statute for its prevention. It is very common for women to weave. Boys are put at an early age to the loom, and the hours of working are, more especially in times of depression, very long. I have known the weaver to labour, with little intermission, fourteen and sixteen hours a-day, and after all earn but the miserable pittance of 6s. or 7s. per week, a sum barely adequate to support his family in the meanest way; but at present a most favourable change has occurred, and every one, even with moderate exertion, may command all the comforts of life. It is, however, melancholy to observe how very often men frustrate by their vices the kindness of Providence. With prosperity, habits of idleness and drinking, which had been checked, have returned,

and the sounds of riot are again heard in our streets, protracted on the morning of the Sabbath even till a late hour.*

The effects produced by this influx of a large manufacturing population will be very differently viewed, according to the different ways in which we may estimate the prosperity of a community. If, in the utilitarian spirit of the times, we look upon wealth as the great ingredient of that prosperity, we must no doubt regard this influx as an unmingled good. Every week brings from Glasgow, at the present time, in payment for work, from L. 500 to L. 700, every farthing of which is immediately expended, and this has unquestionably had the effect, not only of enriching our shopkeepers, but also of producing a demand for agricultural produce, which has benefited the farmers, and raised the value of land in every part of the parish. But if, on the other hand, we regard wealth as a very secondary object, and view all human events, as good or evil, according to their bearing on moral and religious character, we must make great deductions from the foregoing estimate of its advantages. The great proportion of the population in question are dissolute in their habits; few of them attend any place of worship; they spend the Sabbath in wandering over the fields and on the sea shore, and desecrate the day by their irregularities. Our native population have no doubt kept themselves very much apart from their society,—a circumstance which, if it has tended on the one hand, to perpetuate their ignorance and immorality, has, on the other hand, counteracted in a considerable degree the contamination of their example.

Considerable exertions, however, have lately been made to advance, more especially the young among them, in knowledge and religion; and it is hoped that they may ere long occupy a higher status in the community.

Agricultural Association.—There was instituted in the year 1797 an association for the improvement of agriculture, which holds its meetings at Maybole, and the beneficial influences of which are to be observed in the good farming and excellent stock of the surrounding district. It is called the Carrick Farmers' Society, and numbers among its members the nobility and gentry, the great pro-

* Since writing the above, a striking proof of the fluctuating nature of manufactures has been afforded. The supply of webs from Glasgow has been greatly curtailed, and prices lowered. Many of the weavers have been thrown idle, and reduced to a state of starvation. What they call a *dull* has set in, and the heritors and inhabitants of the parish have had to come forward for their relief. The statement in the subsequent paragraph referred to the state of things two or three months ago.

portion of the respectable farmers, and several of the clergy of this division of the county. Four regular meetings are held in the year, and there are commonly two exhibitions of stock of different kinds, when premiums, voted by the society, and two pieces of plate, annually given by the Marquis of Ailsa and Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, are competed for. The Society also awards premiums for the best management of green crops, and the neatest operations in ploughing and other field labour. Essays on subjects connected with agricultural improvements are read and discussed at the meetings, and a grant is annually made from the funds for the purchase of books, models, or new implements of husbandry. Assistance is also given to members who may have fallen into poverty, and to the families of such as may have been left in that condition. Its affairs are altogether most judiciously managed; its meetings in every respect most beneficial; and, notwithstanding the liberal sums given every year for the various purposes referred to, there is at present a capital of L. 575.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Market-Town.—Maybole is a market-town. The market is held on Thursday, and is limited to the sale of butter, eggs, and a few of the minor articles of country produce. The grain raised in the parish is generally taken to the town of Ayr, about nine miles distant.

Means of Communication.—There is a post-office in Maybole. The length of turnpike roads is 28 miles 6 fur. 0 poles, 8 yds. A mail-coach passes daily through the town, to and from Glasgow, and Port-Patrick. Two stage-coaches run twice in the week to and from Ayr. The fences of dry-stone dikes, or more generally of thorn and beech hedges, are in good order, and bridges, embankments, and all connected with the public roads, are in the best condition.

There is a small harbour at Dunure, where there are a few fishing-boats, and where lime and bone-dust are frequently landed in vessels, freighted by the farmers from Ireland, but it is getting fast into a state of dilapidation, and if not soon repaired will become utterly useless.

Ecclesiastical State.—The parish church is situate at the east entrance to the town, and though extremely convenient for its inhabitants, and those of the southern and adjacent parts of the country parish, is still very far removed from many localities towards the east and north, and more especially from the whole of

the country on the western and northern parts of Brown Carrick-hill, many places there being from five to nine miles distant by the road. It was built in 1808, and the last repair by which the interior was much improved, was made in 1830. It accommodates from 1200 to 1300. Twelve sittings only, and these in corners and passages, are free and set apart for the poor. The manse was built in 1806. It is small, and in the usual style of manse architecture, but it has been substantially built, and has not hitherto required any expensive repairs. The glebe consists of about nine Scots acres, and is worth L. 30 per annum. The stipend is 20 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, with an allowance of L. 20 for communion elements.

There are as yet no chapels, but a preaching station has of late been established in the shore district, which is so far distant from the parish church; and it is hoped that a church will soon be erected and endowed in that quarter. An additional church for the accommodation of the weaving population in the town is also much required. There is a chapel belonging to the United Secession body in the town, the minister of which, the Rev. Mr Thomson, receives a stipend of about L. 100 per annum, a very inadequate remuneration for his worth and services. There is also a small chapel in connection with the Methodists, but no regular minister, and the Irish Catholics and Episcopalians have the occasional services of the ministers of these persuasions in Ayr.

Taking the population at 6362, there are belonging to the Established Church 5033, and of the 1329 belonging to other denominations, the following is the distribution: United Secession, 548; Roman Catholic, 355; Church of England, 214; Methodist, 104; Relief, 54; Reformed Presbytery, 44; Antiburgher, 10.

Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended, and the average number of communicants is 1300.

There is a society, named the Maybole Association, for religious purposes, supported chiefly by collections, made from time to time in the parish church and Secession meeting-house, and the most general application of the funds has been in donations to the Ayr and Edinburgh Bible Societies, from both of which most liberal supplies of Bibles and Testaments have been received for distribution among the poor.

Collections for other claims, such as the Assembly's Missions, Church Extension, Education, and for purposes of local charity, are

made at convenient intervals at the church door, and may altogether amount to about L. 40 per annum.

A tract society has been in vigorous operation for nearly two years, and its publications, which have always been favourably received, promise to be useful to the community.

I must here notice an association, not strictly parochial, but connected in the same manner with all the parishes in Carrick, the Carrick Class, composed of the clergy of the district, and the duty of giving some account of which has been assigned to me. This association has existed since the establishment of Presbytery in Scotland. The meetings of the clergy upon church matters appear successively to have been called congregations and classes, before they were regularly constituted into presbyteries: and the Carrick Class, though it has frequently been proposed, having never been erected into a presbytery, has yet retained the old name, and kept up its meetings, with occasional periods of interruption, down to the present day.

Our proceedings have of course lost their business character, although something of the original purposes of the meeting may sometimes be discerned, in the members asking advice in difficulties, taking into their own hands business more immediately connected with the district, and even occasionally arranging little matters, which, when afterwards brought out in the presbytery, will draw forth a good humoured notice of our clannish propensities, and attempts at establishing, if not our original independence, at least an "*imperium in imperio*."

The great purposes of our meeting, however, are the maintenance and promotion of literary and professional attainments, good fellowship, and Christian harmony. With the exception of the months in which the sacrament is dispensed in the different parishes, the members, according to a fixed rotation, meet in each other's manses, on the second Tuesday of every alternate month, at one o'clock P. M. The minister in whose manse the meeting is held, opens it with prayer, and reads an essay on any literary, theological or ecclesiastical subject, which his own taste may have led him to choose. The members, according to seniority, then express their opinion of the essay, and their own views of the points treated of; and after any reply which the author may make, the meeting is closed with prayer, agreeably to the same rotation. The afternoon is spent with the family in social enjoyment, and members from a distance generally remain all night.

That these meetings accomplish some, or perhaps the most, important of these purposes, the kindly relations, unbroken by differences of party, in which the Carrick brethren have long lived, afford a most pleasing proof. Nor have they been abortive in a literary and professional view. Dr Macknight, formerly alluded to as minister of Maybole, read the substance both of his *Harmony and Truth of the Gospel histories* as essays in the class, before sending them to the press; and without presuming to say any thing directly of the present members, one of whom at least is well known to the church by his high character and useful publications; the following list of subjects lately treated of will show, that they have not laid aside, amid their more sacred duties, those literary tastes and habits of study, which never fail to give additional influence to the clerical character: On the Interpretation of the Apocalypse, one of a Series, by Mr Inglis, of Kirkoswald; Critical examination of the latter part of the 7th chapter of the Epistle to the Romans, by Dr Hill of Dailly; Critical essay on the 19th verse of the 3d chapter of 1st Peter, by Mr Blair of Colmonell; On what has been denominated the Golden Era of the Church, or Second Reformation, by Mr Wallace of Barr; On the Etymology, and Scripture use of the Hebrew word *מִשְׁפָּחָה* by Mr Gray of Maybole; On the proposal for a new form of Process, and the introduction of Trial by Jury into the Church Courts, by Mr Paton of Straiton; On the Deluge, by Mr Wallace of Dalrymple; Whether the Election of Ministers by the People is a right founded on Scripture, by Mr Milroy of Ballantrae; Outline of an argument for the Truth and Reasonableness of the peculiar doctrines of Christianity, by Mr Houston of Dalmellington; On the authorship and original language of the Epistle to the Hebrews, Mr M'Ewen of Kirkmichael.

Education.—Total number of schools in the parish, 13; of parochial, 1; supported by subscription, 1; free school-room, 2; unendowed in any way, 9. English reading and grammar, writing and arithmetic, are taught in all the schools; and in the parochial and three of the others, Latin, Greek, French, and geography.

The parochial schoolmaster, at present Mr John Inglis, preacher of the Gospel, has the maximum salary; an allowance of L.30 per annum for house rent, and L.5 for school prizes, and the average amount of fees is L.100.

There is a general anxiety for the education of the young throughout the parish; and since the establishment of the sub-

scription school for the poorer classes in the town, which has been very ably conducted by Mr Lennox, a greater desire for the instruction of their children has sprung up among the Irish population, which promises to be attended with the happiest results.

Literature.—There are subscription and circulating libraries in the town, and in the villages of Dunure and Calroy; and the parish school and Sabbath evening schools have small libraries attached to them.

Charitable and other Institutions—Friendly Societies. The following list will show that a number of these important societies still exist; many have been dissolved, and several are rather in a declining state. They have been of the very greatest advantage, and have enabled many families to maintain their independence in seasons of distress; and it is to be regretted that erroneous calculations at the first, and too liberal application of the funds at particular conjunctures, should have shaken their stability and impaired their usefulness:—Love and Unity, instituted in 1796, has of capital, L. 54; Philanthropic, instituted in 1808, capital, L. 120; Caledonian, sixty-six members, instituted in 1818, capital, L. 140; Social and Humane, instituted in 1825, capital, L. 84; Albion, sixty-six members, instituted in 1820, capital, L. 83; Benevolent Love and Unity Female, instituted in 1829; Friendly Female, instituted in 1810, capital, L. 25.

Saving Banks.—There was instituted in 1831, a savings bank for Maybole and the adjacent villages, which has continued to prosper to the present date, but it is much to be regretted that so few, especially of the hand-loom weavers, should have availed themselves of its provisions. The following summary furnished by Mr Brown, the banker, will show the progress and state of the institution.

	No. of depositors.	Cash paid to depositors with interest.	Sums deposited with int. to depositors.	Net balance of yearly deposits.
1831. For year from 9th April 1831 (the period of its commencement,) ending 1st Jan. 1832, for Maybole and adjacent villages there were	119	L. 26 18 9	L. 400 0 8	L. 378 1 11
1832. For the year ending 1st Jan. 1833, for Maybole and vicinity, (after deducting from the number of the depositors those of the previous year, who had withdrawn during the current year.)	129	209 7 9	357 0 5	147 12 8
1833. For the year 1st January 1834, (deducting as above)	170	251 9 6	425 0 4	178 3 10

	No. of depositors.	Cash paid to depositors with interest.	Sums deposited with int. to depositors.	Net balance of yearly deposits.
1834. For the year ending 1st January 1835, (deducting as above.)	210	L.340 8 0	L.468 14 11	L.128 6 11
1835. For the year ending 1st January 1836, (deducting as above.)	255	443 16 1	616 7 7	172 11 6
1836. For the year ending 1st January 1837, (deducting as above.)	273	478 4 8	636 1 10	157 17 2

The number of depositors (273) at 1st January 1837, may be classed as follows, viz. farm-servants, (male 26, female 44,) 70; domestic servants, 25; sewers, &c. 46; children, &c. 47; labourers, 28; weavers, 25; mechanics, &c. 17; not classed, 15. Depositors, 273; of whom there are males, 126; of females, 147; total, 273—having due to them at 1st January 1837, per state of account from bank, L. 1152, 14s.

Poor and Parochial Funds.—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is about 70; and the average sum allotted to each per week about 1s. 4d.

The annual amount of contributions is about L. 230; L. 100 of which is raised by the ordinary collection at the church door, and another L. 100 by a voluntary contribution from the heritors, who are generally non-resident, and who in the payment of this sum probably give less than they would do, in the course of a regular attendance at church. The remaining L. 30 is made up of proclamation fees, collections at marriages, and private baptisms.

If the general non-residence of the heritors, and the extent and condition of the population be considered, there can be no doubt that the poor in this parish are supported at as small an expense as in any other parish similarly situated. But it must not be concealed, that though among the native population there are a great many who would starve rather than ask charity, this does not result from any general reluctance on the part of the poorer classes, especially among the Irish, to ask for parochial relief, but because they find in begging a more productive and agreeable mode of support, than in the pittance given by the kirk-session. I am quite sure that the fund publicly distributed bears a small proportion to what is given every year by the inhabitants of the town and country at their doors. Many fine things have been written in favour of this mode of management, and it no doubt has its advantages; but the extensive training to habits of public begging which it involves, cannot be estimated as a trifling drawback, when all

the demoralizing consequences of that practice, particularly among the young, are taken into account.

Prisons.—There is a prison attached to the town-hall, used chiefly as a lock-up house, till offenders are sent to the Ayr gaol.

Fairs.—There are four held annually, the Candlemas Beltane, Lammass, and Hallow fairs, originally instituted for different purposes of merchandise, but now almost entirely limited to the hiring of servants.

Inns, &c.—There are 50 inns and ale-houses in the parish, between 30 and 40 of which are in the town, and the others in the country,—a number far beyond what is required for legitimate purposes, and most prejudicial to the morals of the people.

Fuel.—The fuel almost exclusively used is coal. The town and southern districts of the parish are generally supplied from the Girvan water-pits at Dalzellowby and Dalquharn, four and five miles distant, while the northern part is more frequently supplied from the Ayr water coal-field. The coal from the Girvan water is sold at from 7s. 6d. to 10s. per ton delivered. That from the Ayr field generally costs a little more, but is much superior in quality.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The changes in the state of this parish since the publication of the last Statistical Account are numerous and striking.

It is little more than thirty years since wheat began to be partially cultivated; it has only been generally raised within the last twenty years, and it now constitutes the chief and most valuable produce of the land, and has been grown of a weight and quality equal to that of the Lothians.

Within the last forty years, there was scarcely a hedge, the greater part of the land was in pasture, and the only crops were oats, bear, and a few peas and beans. The fields are now well enclosed and drained, and bear abundantly all kinds of agricultural produce.

About that period, too, the cattle were of the Galloway breed, which have now been superseded by the Ayrshire, and which are found in as great perfection, both as to weight and symmetry, as in any other parish in the county. The cow painted by Mr Shiels for the Edinburgh University Agricultural Museum is in the stock of Mr Finlay of Lionston, in the immediate vicinity of the town.

Some very curious details, illustrative of the progress of improvement, were furnished by an inquiry lately made, for a legal

purpose, into the former and present condition of an estate on the sea shore. Before the year 1780, there was not a fence beyond that of a low turf wall upon the whole property, and the houses were mere huts, thatched, and generally with gabels built of turf. The whole is now divided and enclosed, and the farm-houses and steadings are commodious, slated, and even handsome in their appearance. But the following state of the rental, at the different dates referred to, affords the most striking proof of the change which has taken place. From the original document, it appears that the rent, at the earlier dates, consisted of so many pounds Scots, with small quantities of bear and meal, and a quantity of poultry; but the value of the whole, calculated at the prices of the times, is here given in Sterling money.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Rents.</i>
In 1786,	L. 172 4 11
1765,	211 12 4
1785,	346 10 3½
1819,	2157 4 0

The town of Maybole has also of late years been much improved. Access to it was formerly inconvenient and difficult, but, by the exertions of Mr Niven of Kirkbride, who has always taken the greatest interest in the improvement of his native place, the streets have been opened by spacious roads to and from all quarters. The tradesmen are highly respectable; the merchants are men of substance and intelligence; and many of the shops are handsome and well stocked with every article of provisions and dress required by the town and neighbouring country.

The change from a purely agricultural to a manufacturing population has, too, produced great alterations, some of the pernicious effects of which have been elsewhere adverted to; but we cannot doubt that, with proper means of improvement, the whole might finally be rendered matter of congratulation. Let the civil magistrate be vigilant in repressing crime;—let him reduce to a moderate number the houses of public entertainment, and rigidly enforce good hours and orderly demeanour, more especially on the Sabbath day;—let the ecclesiastical establishments be so adapted to the increased numbers, that the means of religious instruction and pastoral superintendence be provided for all;—and let education, under the directing care of the Church, be proportionally extended, and there can be no question that the ignorant and irreligious located amongst us will be raised in the moral scale, and be succeeded at least by a better generation.

September 1837.